



The Council

Bill and Journal Room Printing Services Now Located at the Info Desk

Increased online access to bills and other legislative documents has led to a drastic decrease in the number of requests for paper copies of these documents. Due to the decreased number of requests, the Bill and Journal Room will be moving printing services for the 2025 legislative session to the information desk in the hallway outside the chambers on the first floor of the Capitol. Legislators and the public may request printed copies of bills and other legislative documents by visiting the information desk.

Introduced bills and resolutions also can be viewed on the Legislative Automated Work Station (LAWS).

Legislator Request Dashboard: Co-Sponsors & Bill Introduction

The Legislator Request Dashboard is a great tool for legislators to use to request bills and amendments and communicate with the Legislative Council staff. In addition to making requests, legislators can view, print, and email any documents associated with any requests made since 2020. The request dashboard shows the status of a request and, once complete, a hyperlinked copy of the document. All hyperlinked documents also are emailed to the legislator requesting the document at the time the document is completed.

Bill introduction also is completed using the request dashboard. Co-sponsors for bill drafts must be requested and approved using the request dashboard system. Legislators are required to use the request dashboard to file bills they wish to introduce. If co-sponsors will be added to the bill, a legislator must add co-sponsors using the request system before the bill is introduced. Co-sponsors may not be added after a bill is introduced. A list of all bill introduction deadlines is provided on your request dashboard.

Due to the ease of viewing, printing, and emailing documents from your dashboard, paper copies of requested documents no longer will be preprinted and delivered to legislators in a paper format. If you need assistance in viewing, emailing, or printing any documents from your dashboard, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Legislative Council staff. If you have a certain document you would like to receive in hardcopy, please inform the Legislative Council staff that you would like a paper copy printed and delivered.

Session Calendars Now Published

The calendars for the 2025 legislative session are available on the [69th Legislative Assembly page](#) under "Calendar and Hearing Schedules."

Accessibility

A number of accessibility accommodations will be available to you and your constituents for the 2025 legislative session.

Assistive listening devices for both chambers and legislative committee rooms can be picked up at the information desk. A **sighted guide** for individuals with visual impairments is available upon request. This, or any additional accessibility or accommodation questions may be directed to the Legislative Council by calling 701-328-2916 or emailing lcouncil@ndlegis.gov.

Employee Spotlight



Mary Horlander started as the Legislative Council's first ever communications specialist in November. Not a North Dakota native (Hoosier born and raised), she can say with 100 percent certainty that she never planned to come to North Dakota. But, as fate would have it, she transferred to the University of

Mary during her time in college and, after a brief stint in the Twin Cities, is back in Bismarck and loving it.

Mary especially enjoys filming and editing videos. Her favorite project to date is an internationally recognized short documentary she made while in school. When she's not working, Mary enjoys crocheting, baking, running, and most of all, hanging out with friends.

When it comes to Christmas, Mary loves basically everything! However, she's got a special place in her heart for Christmas lights and Nativities; they bring such a warm happiness to her heart and so much beauty to the season.

266 Bills Prefiled

Important Dates

Jan. 1: Holiday

Jan. 7: Session Begins, bill introductions may resume

From the Director

Warm greetings as we enter the last week of the year. Our employee spotlight this week focuses on another new Legislative Council employee. We will have onboarded six new employees in about a month, three of whom are filling new positions approved by the Emergency Commission at the request of legislative leaders. Like many employers in the state, we also face issues attracting employees and have had to expand our job searches beyond the state's borders.

Recently, I read a [news article touting a \\$12 million Department of Commerce program](#) that has brought 43 people back to the state in the last 2 years. Of our recent hires, three are new to the state, having never lived in the state until they started working for us; one recently returned to the state; and two are relatively new to the state, having moved here for college or moved here within the year. We are doing our part to grow the state's population!

Looking ahead to the new year, we encourage you to get your bill draft requests in as soon as possible to give our drafters time to conduct their research and draft the bills before the rush of the 1st week of the session. The bill introduction deadlines will come up quickly during the first 3 weeks of the session. Our best wishes to you for a Happy New Year!

John Bjornson, Director